

(Chicago Symphony Orchestra, May 12, 1976, p. 2)

piano and orchestra in Concerto No. 27 in B flat major the orchestral exposition comes to a full close before the piano makes its nonhysterical entrance think about the entrance of the solo instrument in concertos written by young composers think about the entrance of the solo instrument in concertos written by composers who are not young know that the concerto is an examination of the relationship of a solo instrument and the orchestra an implicit certainly examination of the relationship of an individual to the world what is the subject of Mozart's Concerto No. 27 in B flat major is it a description of a metaphorical voyage from B flat major to B flat major what is the subject of Shostakovich's Symphony No. 1 what is the subject of Schubert's Quintet in C major, Opus 163 D. 956 what is the subject of Debussy's La Mer certainly the sea empirical reality celebrated explicitly in an aesthetic form three symphonic portraits of the sea "De l'aube à midi sur la mer" "Jeux de vagues" "Dialogue du vent et de la mer" what is being celebrated in Mozart's Concerto No. 27 in B flat major for piano and orchestra what certainly it is not empirical reality celebrated explicitly what is the content of Kew Gardens of Virginia Woolf what is the content of L'Elisir d'Amore of Gaetano Donizetti what is the content of Rossetti's Beata Beatrix what is the subject of Massenet's Werther what is the subject of the Fauré Cantique de Jean Racine what is the subject of Ravel's Boléro (commissioned by Ida Rubinstein and performed by her at the world première in Paris November 20, 1928) a seventeen-minute crescendo examination of a single theme in two sections (the first section heard in the flute then in the clarinet; the second heard in the bassoon then in the clarinet) performed enthusiastically by Solti/Chicago as an encore a single theme examined by different combinations of instruments for seventeen minutes a single theme repeated repositied reexamined a seventeen-minute dance in triple rhythm a seventeen-minute celebration of a single theme a seventeen-minute celebration of a particular rhythm a seventeen-minute orchestral dance for listening not dancing a seventeen-minute symphonic recreation of the world a seventeen-minute salute to the virtuosity of Sir Georg Solti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra a seventeen-minute inquiry into the nature of repetition.